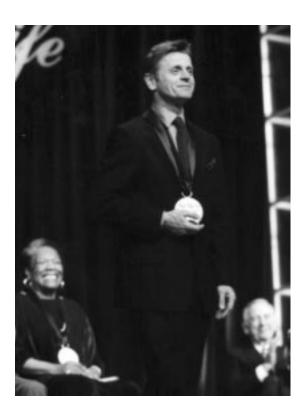
National Medal of Arts



Created by Congress in 1984, the National Medal of Arts is conferred annually by the President to honor persons and organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to the excellence, support, growth, and availability of the arts in the United States. Unlike other arts awards, the National Medal of Arts is not limited to a single field or area of artistic endeavor.

The National Endowment for the Arts solicits nominations for the award, which are reviewed by the National Council on the Arts and then forwarded to the President for final selection. The awards, which are non-monetary, are presented each year at a special White House ceremony. The National Medal of Arts was designed by internationally renowned sculptor Robert Graham.



National Medalists for 2000

Maya Angelou Poet and Writer

Eddy Arnold Country Singer

Mikhail Baryshnikov Dancer and Director

Benny Carter Jazz Musician

Chuck Close Painter

Horton Foote

Playwright and Screenwriter

Lewis Manilow Arts Patron

National Public Radio, Cultural Programming Division Broadcaster

Claes Oldenburg Sculptor

Itzhak Perlman *Violinist*

Harold Prince

Theater Director and Producer

Barbra Streisand

Entertainer and Filmmaker

Dancer and director
Mikhail Baryshnikov receiving the National Medal
of Arts. (Photo by Jocelyn
Augustino)

National Medal of Arts
49